

P A T E N T

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Berger et al.)
)
Application No.: **10/615,594**)
)
Filed: **July 7, 2003**)
)
For: **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR CLEANING A VEHICLE**

MS MISSING PARTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to MS MISSING PARTS, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 19, 2003
By: Carol Prentice
Carol Prentice

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants wish to call the attention of the Examiner to the following references:

U.S. PATENT(S) :

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Patentee</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
5,076,304	Mathews	Dec 31, 1991
5,447,574	Inoue	Sep 05, 1995

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT(S) :

<u>Country</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>
Germany	22 31 846	Jan 17, 1974
Australia	58740/86	Dec 24, 1986
EPO	0 379 353	Jul 25, 1990
Germany	197 51 016	May 27, 1999
International	01/49538	Jul 12, 2001

The references listed above were cited by the International Examiner in the Search Report (copy enclosed) of Applicants' counterpart international patent application no. PCT/EP01/13964 (MPEP §2001.06(a)).

DE 197 51 016 has an English language counterpart, namely U.S. Patent No. 6,193,808.

DE 22 31 846 discloses a vehicle washing facility comprising first and second cleaning tools which can be moved past the vehicle to be cleaned in a longitudinal and a transversal direction thereof. The first cleaning tools are used to clean the front half of the vehicle and the second cleaning tools are used to clean the rear half of the vehicle. Both cleaning tools are controllable independently from each other by a common control appliance.

OTHER FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT(S) :

<u>Country</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>
Germany	692 09 120	Sep 19, 1996

The reference listed above was cited by the German Examiner in Applicants' counterpart German patent application 101 01 018.4 (MPEP §2001.06(a)).

DE 22 31 846, cited in the International Search Report, was also cited by the German examiner.

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An English language abstract is attached to the enclosed copy of DE 692 09 120.

OTHER U.S. PATENT(S) :

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Patentee</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
4,913,357	Bolyard et al.	Apr 03, 1990
6,193,808	Decker	Feb 27, 2001

OTHER FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT(S) :

<u>Country</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>
Germany	19 53 027	Oct 22, 1969
Germany	27 53 137	Mar 19, 1980

PUBLICATIONS:

Patent Abstracts of Japan, Akira, Igari, "Washing Method of Car Washer", Publication No. 09164922, June 24, 1997.

An English language abstract is attached to DE 19 53 027.

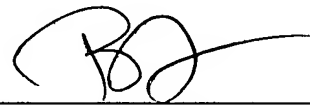
DE 19 53 027 discloses a vehicle washing facility comprising one set of cleaning tools which can be moved around the vehicle to be cleaned. The set of cleaning tools can be guided along a closed track which is mounted above the vehicle and which can be extended in the longitudinal and transversal direction of the vehicle in order to guide the set of cleaning tools around extra long and extra broad vehicles.

Copies of the above-listed foreign references are enclosed, together with a completed form PTO-1449.

Consideration of these references by the Examiner is respectfully requested. To date, a first Office Action on the merits has not been received in connection with this application. This Information Disclosure Statement is therefore believed to be timely filed.

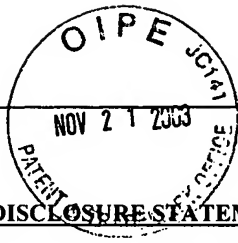
The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: November 19, 2003
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: HOE-765

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FORM PTO-1449

ATTY. DOCKET NO.: HOE-765

SERIAL NO.:
10/615,594INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

APPLICANT(S): Berger et al.

FILING DATE: July 7, 2003

GROUP:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	5,076,304	12/31/1991	Mathews			
	AB	5,447,574	09/05/1995	Inoue			
	AC	4,913,357	04/03/1990	Bolyard et al.			
	AD	6,193,808	02/27/2001	Decker			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANS- LATION YES NO
	AE	22 31 846	01/17/1974	Germany			
	AF	58740/86	12/24/1986	Australia			
	AG	0 379 353	07/25/1990	EPO			
	AH	197 51 016	05/27/1999	Germany			
	AI	01/49538	07/12/2001	International			
	AJ	692 09 120	09/19/1996	Germany			
	AK	19 53 027	10/22/1969	Germany			
	AL	27 53 137	03/19/1980	Germany			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AM	Patent Abstracts of Japan, Akira, Igari, "Washing Method of Car Washer", Publication No. 09164922, June 24, 1997.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.